

KC Councilor
Southern Connecticut State University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024-present Associate Professor, Southern Connecticut State University,
Department of Communication, Media, and Screen Studies
Affiliated Faculty, Women's & Gender Studies
- 2018-2024 Assistant Professor, Southern Connecticut State University,
Department of Communication, Media, and Screen Studies
Affiliated Faculty, Women's & Gender Studies

EDUCATION

PhD, Communication Arts (Rhetoric, Politics, & Culture), 2018
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

MA, Communication Arts (Rhetoric, Politics, & Culture), 2013
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

MA, American Studies, 2009
University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

BA, English (Modern Studies), 2003
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Between You and Me: Transitional Comics (Madison, WI: Drawbridge Press, 2019).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Contributions to Edited Volumes

"I'll Heal Myself," *Annals of Internal Medicine*, July 2024.

“Gendered Bodies: A Graphic Medicine Commentary,” coauthored with Dr. Ann Fink, *Social Science and Medicine*, NIH Supplement, June 2024.

“Immortal Lightheartedness,” *Rhetoric of Health and Medicine*, Fall 2023.

“Dear Masculinity,” in *Male Femininities*, eds. Berkowitz, Windsor, and Han. NYU Press. 2023.

“Transformational Pedagogy, or Teaching While Trans,” in *Voicing Diverse Teaching Experiences, Approaches, and Perspectives in Higher Education*, ed. Wilfredo Alvarez and Patrick DeWalt. IGI Global. 2022.

“Things I Find on the Ground,” *Literature and Medicine* 40(1). 2022.

“In Your Most Radical Imagining,” *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*. 2021.

“Queer Comics,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Queer Studies and Communication*. 2021.

“The Specter of Trans Bodies: Public and Political Discourse about ‘Bathroom Bills,’” *Routledge International Handbook of Communication and Gender*. 2020.

“Cycles.” In *Menopause: A Comic Treatment*. Penn State University Press. 2020.

“Standing on the Shoulders of Stonewall. *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking* 6.2 (2019): 40-43.

“Drawing the Body In: A Comic Essay on Trans Mobility & Materiality.” *Women’s Studies in Communication* 42 (2019).

“Talking, Thinking, Drawing: Classroom Exercises.” With Jenell Johnson. *Graphic Reproduction*. Jenell Johnson, ed. University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2018.

“Feeding the Body Politic: Metaphors of Digestion in Early Twentieth Century U.S. Immigration Discourse.” *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 14, no. 2 (2017): 139-157.

“Dear Doctor II.” *Annals of Internal Medicine* 167, no. 5 (2017): W36-W40.

“Dear Doctor I.” *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 167, no. 11 (2017): W33-W39.

Book Reviews

“Trans* Archives and the Making of Meaning.” Review of *Ken. To be destroyed*, by Sara Davidmann. Published in *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 4.2 (2017): 317-321.

SELECTED LITERARY PUBLICATIONS (COMICS)

“Drawing Hands,” *The Rumpus*, forthcoming December 2025

“What Happened?” *Mutha Magazine*, forthcoming fall 2025

“An Ode to People,” *Mutha Magazine*, April 2025

“Catching Feelings,” *Mutha Magazine*, October 2024.

“To Not Be a Mother,” *Mutha Magazine*, September 2024.

“A Dad in the World,” *The Rumpus*, June 2024.

“Sympathetic Pregnancy,” *Mutha Magazine*, May 2024.

“Hand, Foot, and Mouth,” *Heavy Feather Review*, May 2024.

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025	Ignatz Award Finalist, Web Comic category, “An Ode to People”
2017	Drawbridge Press / Chazen Family Publishing Grant
2016	Vance Kepley Departmental Teaching Award, Dept. of Communication Arts, UW-Madison
2016	Finalist, UW-Madison College of Letters & Sciences Teaching Fellow
2014	Paper selected for New Voices in Critical and Cultural Studies, National Communication Association
2013-2018	University of Wisconsin Teaching Academy Future Faculty Partner
2012	Albuquerque Convention and Visitor’s Bureau Best Paper Award, SW/Texas Popular Culture Association Conference, 2012
2008	UNM Women’s Studies Graduate Essay Award

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2023	Southern Connecticut State University Social Justice & Anti-Racism Grant, “Vision Quest of el Coquí: A Future for Puerto Ricans & Puerto Rico: (A One-Day Film Conference).” \$1,250.
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2022	Southern Connecticut State University Social Justice Grant, <i>Bears on Pine Ridge</i> Screening and Discussion. \$1,000.
2022	Southern Connecticut State University Minority Recruitment and Retention Grant, <i>Bears on Pine Ridge</i> Screening and Discussion. \$2,000.
2019	Connecticut State University AAUP Research Grant, “Graphic Medicine at Ten Years: A Comic Ethnography.” \$3,150.
2016-2018	Applied Comics Kitchen (ACK) workshops. Borghesi-Mellon Grant. \$5,000.
2017	Speak Up: Public Speaking and Tactical Argumentation for Community Justice. Public Humanities Exchange Grant, UW-Madison. \$1,250.
2016-2017	University of Wisconsin University Fellowship
2014-2016	Safe Schools for Wisconsin’s Transgender Youth. Wisconsin Partnership Program, UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, 2014-2016. \$50,000.
2015	Development of Journalism for Racial Justice: Amplifying Voices in Our Communities Course. Mortridge Center for Public Service, 2015.
2013	Development of Online CA260: Communication & Human Behavior Summer Development Funding for Distance Education and Related Initiatives Division of Continuing Studies. \$40,121.
2011-2012	University of Wisconsin University Fellowship
2007-2008	William A. Keleher fellow, UNM Center for Southwest Research

INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

2025	“Comics and Gender: Storytelling around Human Difference,” Indiana University of Pennsylvania, April 2025
2025	“LGBTQ in the News: A Conversation with Journalism Students, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 2025
2023	“Drawing Gender and Health,” University of Nebraska-Omaha, April 2023
2023	“Trans Life in an Age of Backlash,” Indiana University of Pennsylvania, April 2023

- 2022 “Comics, Gender, and Narrative Journalism,” University of Wisconsin-Madison, Nov. 2022
- 2022 “Community in the Classroom: Student-Led Social Justice Work,” Southern Connecticut State University Intersectional Justice & Pedagogy Conference, Oct. 2022
- 2022 “Trans Comics and Graphic Storytelling,” University of Central Florida, April 2022
- 2022 Speaker and Workshop Facilitator, “Graphic Medicine,” Q-Forward Conference, Yale University Medical School, April 2022
- 2021 Plenary Speaker, Women’s & Gender Studies Conference, Southern Connecticut State University, April 2021
- 2020 Visiting Artist Speakers Series, Central Connecticut State University, Dec. 2020
- 2020 “Storytelling and Graphic Narratives,” University of Wisconsin-Madison Journalism Graduate Program, Nov. 2020
- 2020 Graphic Medicine conference keynote, Lehigh University, Lehigh, PA, May 2020
- 2020 Center for Humanities Speaker Series, University of Hartford, April 2020
- 2019 Cartooning Institute, headliner with Ebony Flowers. Hollins University, Roanoke, VA, October 10.
- 2019 “Drawing Yourself In: Making Comics, Making Yourself.” Hollins University, Roanoke, VA, January 16.
- 2018 “Sequential Narratives: Telling Stories in Words and Pictures.” Boston University, November 13.
- 2018 Author/Artist Talk, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, January 18.
- 2017 “Serious Comics: Drawing and Gender Identity.” Boston University, Boston, MA, November 21.
- 2017 “Gender, Transition, and Family Communication.” California State University, San Luis Obispo, March 1.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY / PARTICIPATION

Panels Organized

- 2023 “Graphic Medicine and Rhetorics of Health,” Four-day Seminar Co-creator and Co-leader. Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, May 2023, Penn State.
- 2019 “Creativity in Communication Pedagogy: Arts-Based Methods for Teaching and Community Outreach.” Panel organizer. Eastern Communication Association: Providence, RI, April 10-14.
- 2014 “Memorializing the Past, Orienting the Future: Political Consequences of Public Memory.” Panel organizer and co-chair, American Studies Division. National Communication Association Conference: Chicago, IL, November 19-23.
- 2014 “Subjectivity on the Border: The Politics of Speaking for Nonhuman Others.” Panel organizer and co-chair. Rhetoric Society of America Conference: San Antonio, TX, May 22-26.

Peer-Reviewed Papers and Workshops Presented at Conferences

- 2026 “Making Tactile Literary Devices,” Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference: Baltimore, MD, March 2026.
- 2025 “Show, Don't Tell: Using Visual Storytelling through Comics to Overcome Consumer Health Barriers,” Connecticut Library Association Conference: Groton, CT, April 2025.
- 2024 “Re-Do Comics” with Catherine Gouge. Graphic Medicine Conference: Athlone, Ireland, July 2024.
- 2019 “#wewillnotbeerased: Trans* Activism and Visibility Politics.” National Communication Association Conference: Baltimore, MD, Nov. 13-17.
- 2019 “Drawing New Paradigms of Health and Care.” Graphic Medicine Conference: Brighton, UK, July 11-13.
- 2019 “Lived Truth: The Ethics of Memoir.” Queers and Comics Conference: New York, NY, May 17-18.
- 2019 “Drawing the Body In: A Comic Essay on Trans Mobility & Materiality.” Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference: Washington, DC, April 17-20.
- 2019 “Drawing in the Communication Classroom.” Eastern Communication Association Conference: Providence, RI, April 10-14.

- 2018 “Touch But Don’t Look.” National Communication Association Conference: Salt Lake City, UT, November 7-11.
- 2017 “Drawing Students Out and Drawing Them In: Comics in the Communication Classroom.” National Communication Association Conference: Dallas, TX, November 15-19.
- 2017 “Writing Comics.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference: Washington, DC, February 8-11.
- 2016 “The Bathroom Problem: A Qualitative Investigation of Trans Youth’s Navigation of Physical Facilities in Schools,” with Sara McKinnon. National Communication Association Conference: Philadelphia, PA, November 9-13.
- 2016 “The Residuals of Trans Inclusive Policies in K-12 Schools,” with Sara McKinnon. Rhetoric Society of America Conference: Atlanta, GA, May 26-29.
- 2016 “What’s Eating You?: Drawing Digestion.” Digesting Discourses: Taste, Appetite, and Consumption Conference: Bloomington, IN, March 4-5.
- 2015 “Feeding the Body Politic: Indigestion and Porous Borders in Early 20th Century U.S. Immigration Discourse.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference: Milwaukee, WI, November 12-15.
- 2014 “Public Naming, Public Shaming: Names as Memorials to Contested Histories.” National Communication Association Conference: Chicago, IL, November 19-23.
- 2014 “Feeding the Body Politic: Metaphors of Digestion in Early 20th Century U.S. Immigration Discourse.” New Voices in Critical Cultural Studies panel. National Communication Association Conference: Chicago, IL, November 19-23.
- 2014 “From Ancient Human Remains to Modern Speaking Subject: Giving Voice to the Kennewick Man.” Rhetoric Society of America Conference: San Antonio, TX, May 22-26.
- 2013 “Breaking the Fast and Building the Movement: César Chávez’s 1968 Delano Address.” National Communication Association Conference: Washington, DC, November 20-24.
- 2013 “From Ancient Human Remains to Modern Speaking Subject: The Kennewick Man as Witness in the Case for Claiming the Past.” National Communication Association Conference: Washington, DC, November 20-24.
- 2012 “Food Rhetoric in Sites of Colonial Contest and Assimilation: The Case of Early 20th Century New Mexico.” National Communication Association Preconference Seminar: Orlando, FL, November 14-18.

- 2012 “Kneading a Palatable Identity: The Rhetorical Function of Cookbooks in the Assimilation of New Mexico.” Rhetoric Society of America Conference: Philadelphia, PA, May 24-27.
- 2012 “Alice Stevens Tipton’s The Original New Mexico Cookery and the Rhetoric of Food in Modernizing New Mexico.” Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association Annual Conference: Albuquerque, NM, February 8-11.
- 2012 “Consuming Identity: Food and Politics in the Assimilation of New Mexico.” Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association Annual Conference: Albuquerque, NM, February 8-11.

Respondent

- 2016 Panel respondent. “The Graphic Novel as Rhetorical Construction of Change in Historical Understanding.” Rhetoric Society of America Conference: Atlanta, GA, May 26-29.
- 2009 Panel chair and moderator. “Manifest Destinies: Laura Gómez Meets the Critics.” May 2009. New Mexico Historical Society Conference: Santa Fe, NM.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern Connecticut State University

Making Comics: Visual Storytelling

World of Communication

Capturing Family Stories

Communication & Gender

Workplace Communication

Interpersonal & Small Group Communication

Introduction to Mediated Communication

Communication Capstone

Trans Studies

Intercultural Communication

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Introduction to Digital Communication, lecturer

Intro to Critical Thinking and Writing, TA

Great Speakers & Speeches, TA

Intro to Rhetoric in Politics and Culture, TA

Argumentation and Debate, TA

Introduction to Speech Composition, instructor of record

Communication and Human Behavior, TA

SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

2019-present Editorial Review board member: *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*,
QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking

2018-2019 Elected Member, Nominating Committee, National Communication Association:
Rhetoric & Critical Theory Division

2018-present Conference proposal reviewer, National Communication Association: American
Studies, Critical and Cultural Studies, and Rhetoric & Critical Theory divisions

2023-present Conference reviewer, Rhetoric Society of America

Member, National Communication Association

Member, Rhetoric Society of America

Institutional Service (Southern Connecticut State University)

Faculty Member, President's Strategic Priorities Council, 2022-2023

Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Forum, 2018-present

Member, Writing Across the Curriculum Committee, 2018-present

Member, Department Personnel Committee, Dept. of Communication, Media, and Screen
Studies, 2019-present

Member, Department Part-Time Faculty Evaluation Committee, Dept. of Communication, Media, and Screen Studies, 2022-present

Member, Sabbatical Leave Committee, Dept. of Communication, Media, and Screen Studies, 2018-2019

Panelist, Queering and Indigenizing the Curriculum, 2019

Panelist, Speak Out: LGBTQIA+ Open Mic event, April 2019

Advisor, Honor's thesis: Robert Hahn, 2023; Nadia Cestari, 2025

Advisor, Master's degree special project: Ursula Pfeiffer, 2021; Cindy Cardozo, 2024

Second Reader on Master's thesis: Natalie Nolting, Spring 2019; Jen Hawkins, Spring 2020; Gabby Ferrell, Spring 2022; Luciana McClure, Spring 2022; Mellissa Taylor, Spring 2022; Mike Daniel, Fall 2023

Keynote Speaker, Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil, Fall 2018

Institutional Service (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Organizer, Applied Comics Kitchen Workshop Series, 2016-2018

Judge, UW-Madison Annual Public Speaking Contest, Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2017

Co-President, Rhetoric Society of America, UW-Madison Graduate Student Chapter, 2015-2016

Graphic Designer, Comparative U.S. Studies Cluster, UW-Madison, 2013-2016

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2021	Speaker at Hartford PFLAG; Yale Gender Program; Greenwich Hospital
2020	Panelist at the New Haven International Festival of Arts & Ideas and Windsor Library
2020	Comics Workshop facilitator, University of Wisconsin-Madison Open House Learning Community
2018	Guest facilitator, Westover School, Queer Support Group
2015-2018	Co-Organizer, Madison Print & Resist, Madison, WI

2014-2018 Volunteer Facilitator, Saturday Science, Madison, WI

2014-2018 Volunteer Housing Counselor, Tenant Resource Center, Madison, WI

2014-2016 Researcher / Facilitator, Eagle’s Wing Preschool, Madison, WI

2009-2010 Volunteer Facilitator, Common Bond - Under 21 Group, Albuquerque, NM

ART EXHIBITIONS AND WORKSHOPS

2025 Invited workshop facilitator, Graphic Medicine Collective, Drawing Together

2021 Invited workshop facilitator, Graphic Medicine Collective, Drawing Together

2020 New Haven Free Public Library Ives Gallery Show, New Haven, CT, Dec. 2020

2020 Invited workshop facilitator, “Graphic Medicine,” Q-Forward, New Haven, CT

2020 Invited exhibitor, trans art show at Long Wharf Theater in conjunction with *I Am My Own Wife*, New Haven, CT

2019 Invited exhibitor, Trans-cending Art, New Haven Pride Center

2019 Exhibitor and featured paper design artist, City-Wide Open Studios, New Haven, CT

2019 Invited exhibitor, Q-Med Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT

2018 Exhibitor, City-Wide Open Studios, New Haven, CT

2018 Exhibitor, Madison Print & Resist, Madison, WI, April 28

2018 Headliner, Wisconsin Union Directorate Comics Slam, Madison, WI

2018 Art for Social Justice workshop, Illinois Math & Science Academy, Aurora, IL, February 23

2017 Exhibitor, Madison Print & Resist, Madison, WI, March 25

2017 Exhibitor, What Can Art Do? Art for Social Justice gallery show, Madison, WI March 5-8

2016 “Memorial Union Terrace,” coloring book page, Wisconsin State Journal, May 15

2016 Exhibitor, Lake FX Expo, Chicago, IL, May 13-14

- 2016 Exhibitor, Iowa City Zine Fest, Iowa City, IA, April 9
- 2016 Art and Play in the Classroom workshop, Madison, WI, March 15
- 2015 Exhibitor, Madison Print & Resist, Madison, WI, October 31
- 2015 “You Dropped Your Grocery List,” solo exhibition, Image Lab, Madison, WI, March 1-30
- 2014 Exhibitor, Madison Print & Resist, Madison, WI, November 1

MEDIA COVERAGE

Alex Dueben, “Drawing on Experience: KC Councilor,” *CT Voice*, March 2025, <https://ctvoice.com/2025/03/04/drawing-on-experience-kc-councilor/>.

Tess Terrible and Catherine Shen, “Comics Still Have Humor, But They are Tackling the Hard Stuff,” *CT Public Radio: Where We Live*, August 2024, <https://www.ctpublic.org/show/where-we-live/2024-08-08/comics-still-have-humor-but-they-are-tackle-the-hard-stuff>.

Brian Zahn, “‘Comics is my most fluid language’: SCSU assistant professor explores gender identity through drawing,” *New Haven Register*, April 4, 2021, <https://www.ctinsider.com/news/nhregister/article/Comics-is-my-most-fluid-language-SCSU16073470.php?src=nhrhpdesecp>

Ed Park and Hillary Chute, “The Best Graphic Novels of 2020,” *New York Times*, December 9, 2020, <https://nyti.ms/2IAHnDi>.

Lucy Gellman, “From Orange Street with (Self) Love,” *New Haven Arts Paper*, February 4, 2020, <https://www.newhavenarts.org/arts-paper/articles/whats-in-a-buzzword-pride-center-gives-self-love-a-closer-look>.

Lucy Gellman, “At Pride Center, Trans Voices Shift into Focus,” *New Haven Arts Paper*, November 6, 2019, <https://www.newhavenarts.org/arts-paper/articles/trans-artists>.

“KC Councilor’s *Between You and Me: Transitional Comics*,” *UVA Arts Magazine* 9 (Winter 2018), <https://magazine.arts.virginia.edu/stories/kc-councilor-s-between-you-and-me-transitional-comics>.

Jay Rath, “Cartooniversity,” *Isthmus*, June 14, 2018, <https://isthmus.com/news/cover-story/cartooniversity-uw-madison-comics-lynda-barry/>.

Allison Geyer, “Radical Storytelling: Zine Culture Thrives in Madison,” *Isthmus*, April 19, 2018, <https://isthmus.com/arts/visual-arts/zine-culture-madison-public-library/>.